

What is claimed is:

1. In combination, a vending machine having a bill validator and a security cover for protecting the bill validator comprising:

a vending machine having a housing;

5 a bill validator carried in said housing having a bill slot accessible to the public for receiving and returning bills;

a security cover carried by said housing overlying said bill validator;

a mask portion of said security cover covering said bill slot of said bill validator and having an entrance aligned with said bill slot for receiving and returning  
10 bills;

a bill passageway aligned with said bill slot and said entrance of said mask portion defined by a first guide flange and a second guide flange spaced apart and carried between said bill slot and said entrance; and,

said guide flanges terminating at a mouth portion of said bill validator around  
15 said bill slot and being constructed and arranged relative to said bill slot so that bills may reliably pass from said entrance through said bill passageway into said bill slot, and from said bill slot outwardly through said bill passageway to said entrance during bill rejection;

whereby said bill validator is protected from vandalism and theft by said  
20 security cover and allows for continued operation of the bill validator.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first guide flange is contoured upward and said second guide flange is contoured downward from said entrance to said bill slot so that bills rejected from said bill validator that do not extend directly

out from said bill slot are deflected by said guide flanges through said bill passageway to said entrance to prevent bills from lodging between said security cover and said bill validator.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 including tamper resistant fasteners for affixing said security cover to an interior surface of said housing to prevent access to said fasteners by the public.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said security cover has a height at least equal to said bill validator for protecting said bill validator from attempts to access said bill validator by breaking through said housing.

5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said security cover has a width at least equal to said bill validator for protecting said bill validator from attempts to access said bill validator by breaking through said housing.

6. In combination, a vending machine having a bill validator and a security cover for protecting the bill validator comprising:

a vending machine having a housing;

a bill validator carried in said housing having a bill slot accessible to the public for receiving and returning bills;

a security cover carried by said housing overlying said bill validator;

a mask portion of said security cover covering said bill slot of said bill validator and having an entrance for feeding and returning bills to and from said bill validator;

a bill passageway disposed between said bill slot and said entrance constructed and arranged relative to said bill slot and said entrance for directing the

passage of bills so that bills may reliably pass from said entrance through said bill passageway into said bill slot for bill acceptance, and from said bill slot through said bill passageway outwardly through said entrance during bill rejection;

whereby said bill validator is protected from vandalism and theft while  
5 allowing for continued operation of the bill validator.

7. The security cover of claim 6 wherein said bill passageway includes a first guide flange and a second guide flange extending between said security cover and said bill validator; said first guide flange being contoured upward and said second guide flange being contoured downward from said entrance to said bill slot  
10 so that bills rejected from said bill validator that do not extend directly out from said bill slot are deflected by said flanges through said bill passageway to said entrance to prevent bills from lodging between said plate and said bill validator.

8. The security cover of claim 6 including tamper resistant fasteners for affixing said security cover to said interior surface of said housing to prevent access  
15 to said fasteners by the public.

9. The security cover of claim 6 wherein said security cover has a height at least equal to said bill validator for protecting said bill validator from attempts to access said bill validator by breaking through said housing.

10. The security cover of claim 6 wherein said security cover has a width  
20 at least equal to said bill validator for protecting said bill validator from attempts to access said bill validator by breaking through said housing.

11. A security cover for vending machine bill validators comprising:

a plate having a front side and a rear side for attachment to a housing of said vending machine adjacent said bill validator;

a entrance included in said plate for aligning with a bill slot of said bill validator when mounted to said housing to insert bills into said bill validator;

5 a bill passageway carried on said rear side of said plate being constructed and arranged relative to said bill slot for terminating in a mouth portion of said bill validator around said bill slot when mounted to said housing so that bills may reliably pass through said bill passageway into said bill slot, and from said bill slot outwardly through said bill passageway to said entrance during bill rejection.

10 12. The security cover of claim 11 wherein said plate is carried on an interior of said housing and includes a mask portion for protruding to an exterior of said housing; said entrance being disposed in said mask portion; and, said mask portion being constructed and arranged for covering said mouth portion of said bill validator to protect said bill slot.

15 13. The security cover of claim 11 wherein said bill passageway includes a first guide flange contoured upward and a second guide flange contoured downward from said entrance to said mouth portion so that bills rejected from said bill validator that do not extend directly out from said bill slot are deflected by said flanges through said bill passageway to said entrance to prevent bills from lodging between  
20 said plate and said bill validator.

14. The security cover of claim 11 including tamper resistant fasteners for affixing said plate to said housing to prevent access to said fasteners by the public.

15. The security cover of claim 11 wherein said plate has a height at least equal to said bill validator for protecting said bill validator from attempts to access said bill validator by breaking through said housing.

16. The security cover of claim 11 wherein said plate has a width at least  
5 equal to said bill validator for protecting said bill validator from attempts to access said bill validator by breaking through said housing.